furnished by Central Bureau of Health Investigation, the number of viral hepatitis cases and death reported by the State of Kerala were 5323 and 7 during 2002, 7433 and 9 during 2003 and 5405 and 2 during 2004 respectively.

Unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation, hygiene are some of the important causes of Jaundice. Provision of safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and treatment of Jaundice is the primary responsibility of the State Governments. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various schemes such as Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Swajaldhara Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana — Rural Drinking Water, Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme, Total Sanitation Campaign, School Sanitation and Hygiene Education and Low Cost Sanitation Scheme. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi provides technical support to the State Governments and undertakes surveillance, early detection and prevention of control of outbreak of communicable diseases including Jaundice.

Control of AIDS

558. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh initiative is being taken by Government to check the growing menace of AIDS which is rapidly spreading in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, Government of India has launched a comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme, currently under implementation throughout the country as a Centrally sponsored

scheme with the following components:—

- Preventive interventions for high-risk populations through targeted interventions adopting a multi-pronged strategy including peer counselling and behaviour change communication.

- Preventive intervention for the general population through programmes for blood safety, voluntary counselling and testing services, Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT), Information Education and Communication (IEC).

- Provision of low cost care and support services by providing community care services, treatment of opportunistic infections and prevention of occupational exposure.

- Collaborative efforts to promote inter-sectoral programme activities including workplace interventions and public-private partnerships.

- Build technical and managerial capacities for programme implementation through Surveillance, Training, Monitoring and Evaluation, Technical resource groups, operational research and programme management.

- Various fresh initiatives have been taken under National AIDS Control Programme as follows:

- Parliamentary forum and State legislative forums established in 9 States to provide strong leadership at different levels of governance.

- Media Leaders Summit on HIV/AIDS was held under Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister.

- Mainstreaming HIV efforts in ongoing programmes of various ministries and departments.

- Antiretroviral therapy roll out started in April 2004 and 25 Government hospitals have been sanctioned to provide free antiretro-viral treatment.

- Proposal of expansion of ART services for six high prevalence States approved by global fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) Round IV.

- Provision of services for management of HIV—TB co-infection in six high prevalence States has been started with support from Global fund.
- Mass media campaign to achieve total awareness about prevention of HIV/AIDS.
- Phase I human clinical trials of recombinant Adeno-associated Virus (AAV) vaccine started at National AIDS Research Institute, Pune from 7th February, 2005.
- Programme for Prevention of Mother to child transmission expanded to 288 centres.

Discouraging smoking among the youth

559. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh initiative is being taken by Government to discourage cigarette smoking especially among the youths in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Government of India enacted the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 which, *inter alia*, contains provisions which ban sale of tobacco products to minors, sale of tobacco products around educational institutions, ban on direct or indirect advertisement of tobacco products and ban on smoking in public places including educational institutions. These provisions aim at discouraging tobacco use especially among the youth in the country. Besides ensuring effective enforcement of this law, action is taken to increase awareness among members of the civil society including youth about the ill effects of tobacco use and the urgent need to quit the habit.